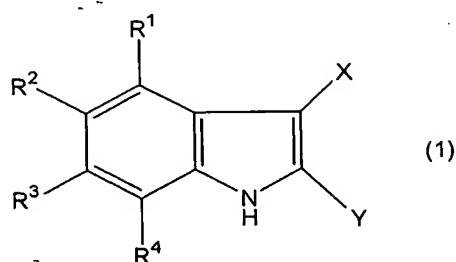


Abstract

An indole derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 represents an alkoxy group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and other groups of the R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 represent hydrogen, an alkyl group containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, acetyl group, or hydroxyl group; and either one of X and Y represents $-(CH_2)_nOH$ wherein n is an integer of 0 to 30, and the other one of the X and Y represents hydrogen atom; or a salt thereof; and a drug and an agent for promoting differentiation of a stem cell containing such indole derivative or its salt as an effective component.

The indole derivative (1) of the present invention has action of inducing differentiation of neural stem cell specifically into a neuron, and this indole derivative is useful as a prophylactic or therapeutic drug for brain dysfunction or neuropathy caused by loss or degeneration of the neuron.